Agent - Spiritual Being

Spiritual Agent: in ascribing it to Spiritual Being
- representing the traces of **Heaven and Earth's effective interaction**
- **as if** there were men, **some personal agency**, **bringing it abou**t

Spiritual Being: the term denotes specially the **human spirit disembodied**
- **coupled with** the term for **spirits whose seat is in Heaven**

#Abundance #UtmostPossibility
When the sun has reached the meridian height, it begins to decline
- the interaction of Heaven and Earth is now vigorous and abundant
- now dull and scanty
- **growing and diminishing according to the seasons**
- How much more must it be so with the operations of men!
- How much more also with the **spiritual agency**!

#Humility #Integrity
It is **the Way of Heaven** to diminish the full and **augment** the humble.
- It's the Way **of Men** to hate the full and **love** the humble.
- It is the Way **of Earth** to overthrow the full and **replenish** the humble.
- Spiritual Beings inflict distress on the full and **bless the humble.**
- (*Beatitudes)*

Setting of Writings

The kingdom was utterly disorganized and demoralized.
- the house can no longer exercise rule over the land.
- great deeds of our founders were displayed in a former age
- through addiction we have destroyed the effects of founders virtue
- people, small and great, are given to
    - highway robberies, villainies, and treachery
- nobles and officers imitate one another in violating the laws
- the lesser people rise up and commit violent outrages on one another
- sinking into ruin, its condition is like that of one crossing a large stream
    - no shallow place to walk, no bank to reach easily

The miserable state of the nation was due to the character and tyranny of the monarch
- the monarch treats all virtue with contemptuous slight
- the monarch abandons himself to wild idleness and irreverence.
- the monarch has cut himself off from Heaven.
- the monarch has brought opposition and hostility between himself and the people.

The monarch honors and confidence are given to the villainous and bad.
- The monarch has driven from him his instructors and guardians.
- The monarch has thrown to the winds the statutes and penal laws.
- The monarch neglects the sacrifices (*offerings*) to Heaven and Earth.
- God will no longer bear with the monarch, but with a curse is sending down the monarch's ruin.

Meanwhile, in the west, lay a principality,
- the lords of which had been long distinguished for their ability and virtue
- the present king (chief) was not only lord, but
    - had come to be a ruler (on behalf of a sovereign) over a great part of the kingdom

Equally distinguished in peace and war, a model for all that was good and attractive
- the present king (chief) conducted himself with remarkable wisdom and self-restraint

The king (chief), thrown into prison over jealousy by the monarch,
- occupied himself with these figures (adding to the writings)

The son of the king (chief), a patriot, hero, legislator and philosopher,
- entered into the work as well and completed it.

The Results

The king is released, and the monarch's dynasty was superseded by the king and son.
- 1142 B.C.

A portion of the text and its interpretation, #Humility #Integrity,
- was published in Paris in 1687 by the fathers of the Society of Jesus

The first European translation of the writing was not made public until 1834.